From: Zondervan, Quinton
To: Steven Spitz
Subject: Re: Please vote NO on the HP/Israel boycott
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:44:59 AM

Thanks Steven! Best,

Q

Quinton Zondervan
Cambridge City Councillor
617-901-2006

On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:51 PM, Steven Spitz <steven.spitz@gmail.com> wrote:

Quinton,

As you know, I am a progressive Israeli-American, and I've been a Cambridge resident since 2009. I live in Central Square, work at Google, am a member of Temple Beth Shalom, and send my children to Cambridge public schools.

When I lived in Israel, I voted for left-wing parties, and I want to see Israelis and Palestinians live peacefully in two states, side by side. I also want to make sure that progressives in America are supporting Israelis and Palestinians who are working toward this future, including the left-wing Israelis who are currently struggling to overcome attacks by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right government.

I am ideologically opposed to BDS because **it does not distinguish between legitimate opposition to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and opposition to Israel's existence**. In its quest to silence domestic and international criticism of the occupation, the far-right Israeli government has waged a campaign to smear all legitimate criticism as being motivated by the anti-Israel ideology of BDS. I know that this is ridiculous, since I am a progressive Israeli who opposes the occupation and also opposes BDS. But Netanyahu and his allies have used BDS to fear-monger for votes, to the detriment of progressive anti-occupation Israelis and their supporters, like me, in America.

If we truly want to stand with progressives in Israel and resist the far-right policies of the Israeli government, we shouldn't play into their hands by passing this resolution and giving fuel to BDS. Instead, we should have a real conversation about what the Cambridge City Council can do to oppose the occupation and work for a peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians.

Thanks,
Steven Spitz
3 Lamson Place